

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

1                   23. (Currently amended) A storage system comprising:  
2                   a plurality of I/O ports for connection to a communication network, the I/O ports  
3 receiving write requests;  
4                   an array of media for storing information, the array comprising a plurality of disk  
5 storage units organized into a plurality of logical diskse coupled by data paths to a communication  
6 link, and thereby to a host system, wherein the host system establishes communications with the  
7 storage system using the communication link and the data paths;  
8                   a plurality of data paths for selective connection between the logical disks and the  
9 I/O ports; and  
10                  ~~wherein the storage system allocates~~ an allocator to allocate the data paths  
11 between the logical disks and the I/O ports based upon a data rate capability of the data paths to  
12 thereby provide a desired quality of service.

1                   24. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 23 wherein the array of  
2 media includes media having different operational characteristics, and wherein the storage  
3 system allocates individual ones of the media to individual ones of the data paths to provide the  
4 desired quality of service.

1                   25. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 23 wherein a processor  
2 in the host system establishes a data path between the storage and the network connection; the  
3 data path being assigned a sufficient data speed to accommodate the desired quality of service.

1                   26. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the array of  
2 media comprise hard disk drives, and the different operational characteristics comprise different  
3 speeds of operation.

1                   27. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the storage  
2 system allocates ones of the array of media based upon a data rate capability of the media and a  
3 data rate capability of the communication link.

1                   28. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the desired  
2 quality of service comprises a specified bandwidth and wherein the storage system allocates  
3 individual ones of the media based upon the guaranteed bandwidth.

1                   29. (Currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~A storage system comprising:  
2 an array of storage media; ~~[[and]]~~  
3 a plurality of I/O ports, each having a network connection operable to connect to  
4 the array with a desired quality of service;  
5 a plurality of data paths ~~coupling the network connection to~~ selectively couple the  
6 I/O ports to the ~~storage media~~ array, wherein a data path between one or more of the array  
7 storage media and the network connection is selected to provide sufficient data speed to  
8 accommodate the desired quality of service.

1                   30. (Currently amended) A method for allocating resources in a storage system,  
2 the storage system comprising an array of storage devices coupled to a network connection by  
3 data paths, the method comprising:  
4 establishing a data path between a storage device of the array and the network  
5 connection; the data path being selected to provide a sufficient data speed based upon data  
6 capacity of the storage device and data rate capability of the network connection; and  
7 selecting ~~ones a~~ a storage device of the array based upon the data capacity and the  
8 data rate capability of the network connection.

1                   31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of  
2 establishing the data path comprises assigning a data path having a sufficient data speed to  
3 accommodate the desired quality of service.

1                   32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of  
2 establishing a data path comprises searching for unallocated data communications resources to  
3 accommodate a data capacity of the array.

1                   33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of selecting  
2 ones of the array comprises searching for unallocated ones of the array having a sufficient data  
3 capacity to match a data rate capability of the network connection.